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# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2504

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The Honorable Michael D. Brown  
Under Secretary  
Emergency Preparedness and Response  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 C St, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Brown,

Earlier this year, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms ravaged large portions of Missouri. Folks who live in these areas have lost loved ones and have had their communities destroyed by Mother Nature's fury.

Soon after these storms occurred, I visited Stockton, Missouri, and other communities to witness firsthand the destruction that occurred. President Bush also traveled to the Show Me State to survey the damage caused by the tornadoes. As someone who urged the Administration to fully fund Missouri tornado relief, I was grateful for the President's visit. Federal resources would assist Missourians whose lives have been turned upside down by this spring's natural disasters.

Recently, I learned that the federal government has denied the State of Missouri's request for full federal assistance and will pass a significant portion – an estimated 25 percent – of the financial responsibility associated with tornado relief to the state and local level of government. Because of this decision, I am concerned that the damages faced by residents of Missouri will not be covered and that the release of funds to communities most affected by storms will be delayed.

Your division of the Homeland Security Department has a statement on its website that reads: "Helping People Before, During, and After Disasters." While I have been impressed with the way in which your agency has responded in the wake of the tornadoes, I am truly disappointed by your decision to pass the financial burden to cash-strapped state and local governments.

I look forward to hearing from you in the immediate future explaining why the Department has decided to shrink from its federal responsibility.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



IKE SKELTON  
Member of Congress